United Nations S/2007/665

Security Council

Distr.: General
13 November 2007
English
Original: French

Letter dated 12 November 2007 from the Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith a report on the work of the Security Council during the presidency of France in September 2007 (see annex). The document was prepared under my responsibility, after consultation with the other members of the Security Council.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Jean-Maurice **Ripert**

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Annex to the letter dated 12 November 2007 from the Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of France (September 2007)

Under the presidency of Ambassador Jean-Maurice Ripert, Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations, the Security Council engaged in an extensive programme of work during the month of September. The Security Council held 15 meetings, including one at the summit level, four briefings and one meeting with troop-contributing countries. The Council held consultations of the whole on nine occasions. The Council adopted six resolutions and three presidential statements, and agreed on four statements to the press.

Africa

Democratic Republic of the Congo

During consultations on 7 September, the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Edmond Mulet, briefed the Council on the situation in North Kivu, in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, where the refusal of the combatants of renegade General Laurent Nkunda to engage in the *brassage* process resulted in escalating tensions with the armed forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

During consultations on 11 September, the Council heard a briefing by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, John Holmes, on the humanitarian situation in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. He emphasized the urgent humanitarian needs in the Kivus, where continued fighting had caused massive displacements of population, stressed the alarming scale of sexual violence in the country, and called for stronger determination in fighting impunity.

On the same day, Council members approved a statement to the press on the situation in North Kivu, in which they expressed their deep concern at the recent clashes in North Kivu between Nkunda's elements and the armed forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, as well as the continuing activities of the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda and other illegal armed groups.

They stressed the need to ensure that all illegal armed groups in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo do not receive any support and disarm without any further delay. They expressed their support for the action of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in particular its actions to protect civilians, and urged the Congolese authorities to redouble their efforts to seek a comprehensive solution to address and resolve the root causes of the current tensions in the Kivus through political and diplomatic means and to intensify their efforts to address impunity.

Liberia

The Council held a private meeting on 6 September with the troop-contributing countries to the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL). The

Council afterwards heard a briefing by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Liberia, Alan Doss, who presented the report of the Secretary-General (S/2007/479) on the situation in Liberia.

On 20 September, the Council adopted, as a presidential text, resolution 1777 (2007), by which it extended the mandate of UNMIL until 30 September 2008 and reduced the number of personnel to be deployed from October 2007 to September 2008, as recommended by the Secretary-General.

Somalia

Ambassador Dumisani Shadrack Kumalo (South Africa), in his capacity of Chairman of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 751 (1992), briefed the Council on 11 September on the work of the Monitoring Group and of the sanctions Committee. He stressed in particular that Somalia was, as reported by the Monitoring Group, awash in arms.

Peace and security in Africa

On 25 September, Nicolas Sarkozy, President of the French Republic, chaired a Security Council summit debate on the theme "Peace and security in Africa", with the participation of the Secretary-General and the Chairman of the Commission of the African Union, Alpha Oumar Konaré. The participants highlighted the importance of peace and security in Africa for the international community as a whole. In the context created by the adoption of resolutions 1769 (2007) and 1778 (2007), they stressed the necessity for the United Nations and the African Union to continue their efforts to strengthen their institutional and operational cooperation.

Sierra Leone

On 19 September, the Council heard a briefing by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Jean-Marie Guéhenno, on the situation in Sierra Leone after the second round of the presidential elections. He stressed that the electoral process had been free and fair, in spite of some tension that had been kept under control by the independent Electoral Commission and the police forces. He expressed the hope that the international community would give its support to the country to enable it to face the economic and security challenges before it. The members of the Council concurred and adopted a statement to the press commending the people of Sierra Leone.

Sudan

During its consultations on 7 September, the Council heard a briefing by the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations on the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and the activities of the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS). The members of the Council noted that, although the North-South peace process continued to progress, many important issues remained unresolved or behind schedule. They stressed the need for the parties to remain committed to fully implementing the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

During its consultations on 10 September, the Council heard the quarterly briefing by the Chairman of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1591 (2005), Ambassador Marcello Spatafora (Italy), on the activities of the Committee.

Council members were informed, in particular, that the Committee had examined the second interim report submitted by the Panel of Experts in July. On 28 September, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1779 (2007), submitted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, by which it extended the mandate of the Panel of Experts on the Sudan until 15 October 2008.

During its consultations on 12 September, the Council was briefed by the Secretary-General on his recent visit to the Sudan, Chad and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. The visit enabled the Secretary-General to give additional momentum to the joint efforts undertaken by the United Nations and the African Union on Darfur, including the preparations for the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation (UNAMID) and the next steps in the political process, to address regional aspects of the Darfur crisis, to recall the crucial importance of a full and timely implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, and to draw attention to the central importance of development in ensuring a sustainable end to conflicts. The members of the Council reiterated their unwavering support for the action of the Secretary-General on Darfur.

Chad, the Central African Republic and the subregion

During its consultations on 19 September, the Council was briefed by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations on the preparations for a multidimensional presence in eastern Chad and the north-eastern Central African Republic, as requested in the presidential statement dated 27 August 2007 (S/PRST/2007/30).

On 25 September, the Council unanimously adopted, as a presidential text, resolution 1778 (2007), by which it approved the establishment in Chad and the Central African Republic of a multidimensional presence intended to help create the security conditions conducive to a voluntary, secure and sustainable return of refugees and displaced persons, and consisting of a United Nations mission (the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad), a special Chadian police force (Police tchadienne pour la protection humanitaire) and a military operation of the European Union. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Chad and the Central African Republic, Ahmad Allam-Mi and Côme Zoumara, attended the meeting.

Asia

Timor-Leste

On 10 September, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Atul Khare, briefed the Council on the situation in Timor-Leste and the work of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT). The Special Representative underlined the progress achieved through the electoral process, but stressed the challenges, relating notably to security sector reform, justice and accountability and internally displaced persons, lying ahead. The Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2007/33), in which it emphasized the need for all parties to resolve disputes through peaceful channels and reaffirmed its full support for UNMIT.

Afghanistan

On 19 September, the Council, by 14 votes, with 1 abstention, adopted resolution 1776 (2007), by which it extended the mandate of the International Security Assistance Force until 13 October 2008. On 30 September, the Council released a statement to the press condemning the terrorist attack in Kabul on 29 September.

Myanmar

On 20 September, the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General, Ibrahim Gambari, briefed the Council on Myanmar. On 26 September, the Council held an emergency consultation in response to the crisis in Myanmar. After the consultation, the President made an oral statement to the media, expressing the support of the Council for the Secretary-General's decision to send the Special Envoy to the region.

Middle East

On 20 September, the Council heard a presentation by the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Lynn Pascoe, and held consultations on the situation in the Middle East, particularly concerning the Palestinian issue.

Lebanon

On 19 September, the Council was briefed by the Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs, Nicolas Michel, on the Secretary-General's report (S/2007/525) on the implementation of resolution 1757 (2007) regarding the establishment of the Special Tribunal for Lebanon.

On the same day, the members of the Council approved a statement to the press welcoming the Secretary-General's report (S/2007/525) on the implementation of resolution 1757 (2007) regarding the establishment of the Special Tribunal for Lebanon.

On 20 September, the Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2007/34), in which it condemned the terrorist attack in Beirut on 19 September which killed at least seven persons, including a Member of Parliament, Antoine Ghanem.

On 21 September, the President of the Security Council addressed a letter to the Secretary-General (S/2007/557) informing him that the members of the Council, having carefully considered his letter dated 20 September (S/2007/556), referred to resolutions 1644 (2005) and 1748 (2007) and invited the International Independent Investigation Commission to extend appropriate technical assistance to the Lebanese authorities in the investigation of the murder of Member of Parliament Antoine Ghanem on 19 September.

On 27 September, the members of the Council approved a statement to the press, delivered by the President of the Council, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of France, Bernard Kouchner, calling for the holding of a free and fair presidential election in conformity with Lebanese constitutional norms and schedules, and without any foreign interference, in full respect of the sovereignty of Lebanon, on the basis of national unity and in an atmosphere free of violence, fear and

intimidation, in particular against the representatives of the Lebanese people and institutions.

Europe

Georgia

On 26 September, the Council discussed the situation in Georgia in the light of the armed incident of 20 September 2007. Members of the Council expressed regret for the loss of life and concern about the increased tension within and outside the zone of conflict.

Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

On 28 September, the Council heard a briefing by Miguel Angel Moratinos Cuyaubé, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Spain and Chairman-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, on the priorities and activities of OSCE.

Americas

Haiti

On 12 September, the Secretary-General briefed the Council on his visit to Haiti in August.

Other issues

Non-proliferation

On 19 September, the Chairman of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006), Ambassador Johan C. Verbeke (Belgium), presented the report of that Committee. The report, which provided a summary of the Committee's activities during the previous 90 days, was adopted by the Council at a formal meeting.

International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia

Pursuant to the requests formulated in two letters dated 31 July 2007, addressed to the President of the Security Council by the Secretary-General, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1774 (2007), by which it reappointed the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, Hassan Bubacar Jallow, for a term of four years; and adopted, by 14 votes, with 1 abstention, resolution 1775 (2007), by which it extended the term of the Prosecutor of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, Carla del Ponte, until 31 December 2007.